

IN THE CLAIMS:

A 1. (Original) A method of protecting a multimedia object having a first media component and a second media component, comprising the steps of:

providing a watermark;

splitting the watermark into a first part and a second part;

inserting the first part of the watermark into the first media component;

inserting the second part of the watermark into the second media component; and

outputting a watermarked multimedia object.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, comprising the further steps of:

receiving the watermarked multimedia object;

extracting from the first media component of the watermarked multimedia object a first extracted watermark part;

extracting from the second media component of the watermarked multimedia object a second extracted watermark part;

combining the first extracted watermark part with the second extracted watermark part; and

comparing the combined first and second extracted watermark parts with the provided watermark to verify an ownership.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the watermark is a signature watermark and is provided by:

obtaining a signature of the multimedia object; and
generating the signature watermark as a function of the signature.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, comprising the further steps of:

receiving the watermarked multimedia object;
extracting from the first media component of the watermarked multimedia object a first extracted watermark part;
extracting from the second media component of the watermarked multimedia object a second extracted watermark part;

generating a combination watermark by combining the first extracted watermark part with the second extracted watermark part;

generating a signature watermark that is a function of a signature extracted from the watermarked multimedia object; and

comparing the combination watermark with the signature watermark to authenticate the multimedia object.

5. (Original) A system for protecting a multimedia object having a first media component and a second media component, comprising:

a mechanism for splitting a watermark into a first and a second part; and

a mechanism for inserting the first part into the first media component, and for inserting the second part into the second media component.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, further comprising a mechanism for outputting a watermarked multimedia object, wherein the watermarked multimedia object includes the first media component having the first part of the watermark, and the second media component having the second part of the watermark.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, wherein the first media component is an audio component, and the second media object component is a video component.

8. (Original) The system of claim 6, further comprising:

a mechanism for obtaining a signature from the multimedia object; and

a mechanism for generating the watermark as a function of the signature.

9. The system of claim 6, further comprising:

a mechanism for extracting a first extracted watermark part from the first media component in the watermarked multimedia object, and for extracting a second extracted watermark part from the second media component in the watermarked multimedia object;

a mechanism for combining the first extracted watermark part with the second extracted watermark part; and

a mechanism for comparing the combined first and second extracted watermark parts with the watermark.

10. (Original) The system of claim 8, further comprising:

a mechanism for extracting a first extracted watermark part from the first media component in the watermarked multimedia object, and for extracting a second extracted watermark part from the second media component in the watermarked multimedia object;

a mechanism for generating an extracted watermark by combining the first extracted watermark part with the second extracted watermark part;

a mechanism for generating a signature watermark that is a function of a signature of the watermarked multimedia object; and

a mechanism for comparing the extracted watermark with the signature watermark.

11. (Original) A system for authenticating a watermarked multimedia object having a first media component and a second media component, comprising:

a mechanism for extracting a first watermark part from the first media component, and for extracting a second watermark part from the second media component;

a mechanism for combining the first extracted watermark part with the second extracted watermark part; and

a mechanism for comparing the combined first and second watermark parts with a provided watermark.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the provided watermark is generated as a function of a signature of the watermarked multimedia object.

13. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the first media component is a video component and the second media component is an audio component.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the watermarked multimedia object has a third media object, and wherein the third media object is a closed caption component.